

Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force
Senator Randy Head, Chair

Priorities

- Identify gaps in the array of substance abuse services, especially in rural areas.
- Increase the number of mental health and substance abuse service providers trained in evidence-based practices, trauma-informed care, addiction issues, and suicide prevention.
- Increase access to mental health and substance abuse services, regardless of income or ability to pay, and identify barriers to receipt of Medicaid.
- Increase access to mental health services for youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Increase access to substance abuse services for youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Address geographic disparities in treatment resources.
- Address teen prescription drug abuse.
- Assess and address gaps in service array and access, with particular emphasis on remedying geographic disparities.

Members

Parri Black, Youth First, Inc.; Sirrilla Blackmon, Department of Child Services; Cathy J. Boggs, Community Health Network; Suzanne F. Clifford, Community Health Network; Sam Criss, Department of Child Services; C.J. Davis, Four County Counseling Center; Cathleen Graham, Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy; Carey Haley Wong, Child Advocates; Lt. Kevin Hobson, Indiana State Police; Katie Hokanson, Indiana State Department of Health; Mindi Goodpaster, Marion County Commission on Youth; Marc D. Kniola, Indiana Department of Correction; Suzanne O'Malley, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

Meetings

- May 12, 2015
- July 17, 2015
- September 2, 2015
- November 10, 2015
- January 14, 2016
- April 12, 2016

Accomplishments of Past Year

- Formulated a statewide youth suicide prevention plan.

- Found three major issues with the implementation of telemedicine: 1) Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) requires a face-to-face physical before telemedicine can begin; 2) IAC requires an initial face-to-face contact before a doctor can prescribe medicine; and 3) there are no real parameters for community based services. Barrier number 2 was to a degree eliminated by passage of HEA 1263 (2016).
- Explored expansion of Prescription Drug Drop Boxes and the Yellow Jugs Program.
- Presentation by the Fulton County Pseudoephedrine Action Committee led to the creation and passage of SEA 80. SEA 80 makes it more difficult for meth cooks to obtain pseudoephedrine.
- Based on Task Force inquiry, Indiana colleges are now working with the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC). An affiliation agreement between Indiana University and IDOC was completed summer 2015. The hope is that this will create a pipeline of MSW students for more hiring and retention at IDOC.
- Saw the need for recommendations on developing age appropriate substance abuse curriculum for students and finding ways to better connect affected youth with substance abuse services in Indiana schools. This led to the creation of the Joint Committee on Substance Abuse Education and Services.
- Subcommittee has partnered with Healthier Morgan County to determine county specific youth drug use risk factors. A survey will be administered to jail inmates which will ask them about specific reasons as to why they use drugs. By May 2016 the subcommittee hopes to have the questions finished.

Current Action Plan

- Continue exploring how the Task Force can help in expanding access to telemedicine for substance abuse treatment for adolescents.
- Later this summer begin working on legislation to address youth suicide based on the suicide prevention plan.
- Look at data maps to determine gaps in the array of substance abuse services especially in rural areas.
- Look at how Indiana can increase the number of mental health and substance abuse service providers. License reciprocity must be addressed.
- Continue working with Healthier Morgan County to identify risk factors for children who use drugs.

Timeline for Achieving Stated Goals

- May 1, 2017

Recommendations for the Commission

- Support the Suicide Prevention Recommendations for the 2017 legislative session. Current State plan has no teeth.
- Issue letter of support based on suicide prevention plan once legislation is filed.
- Expand and market school based prevention programs to community leaders and County courts.

Anticipated Next Steps

- Address barriers to receipt of Medicaid.
- Identify gaps in service array and access with particular emphasis on remedying geographical disparities. Look at school based health centers.
- How to create greater buy-in for the Indiana Youth Survey because the response rate is not 100%. See what we can do to increase participation and have all schools participate.
- Communicate with the Attorney General's Office about expanding the Prescription Drug Dropbox Program or Yellow Jugs Program.